

contains an equalization formula. But the fact of the matter is that simply what we're doing by this, we're recognizing there's a problem in our community college areas and we're simply saying our way of dealing with the problem is simply to expand the authority in the four remaining community college areas and balancing the solution of the problem on the back of the property taxpayers. And I guess I just feel the body should step back, take a second hard look at LB 1050 and before they raise the taxing authority in the community college areas, before they further add to the possibility of further burdening the property taxpayers, the body should take a good hard look at it. But, having said that, knowing this will move on a voice vote and maybe there will be some red votes, at least when it comes to Final Reading, I will withdraw my motion.

PRESIDENT: The motion is withdrawn. We're back on the advancement of the bill. Senator Weihing, did you wish to speak about that?

SENATOR WEIHING? Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I appreciate Senator Moore's comments. He brings up a point with regards to the financing of the community colleges. It...perhaps the body should be looking at that more closely and redesigning how that...how the community colleges should actually be funded. He does bring out a very true point that this does have that potential but the potential is quite rare, we feel. And this, as he also mentioned, this is a companion bill, a companion to LB 143 that was put in by Senator Baack, that was addressing the issue on equalization among the technical community colleges. LB 1050 is a bill that would remove the population clause that we presently have which states that those community college areas that have a population of 150,000 or less would have the...could have a 2-1/2 cent higher levy limit that is over the base levy limit in taxing authority. What we are proposing here that that be removed, that all of them would be equal and that it would be raised so that all of them would be at...could go over the present nine cent limit. But that could only be done, could only be done if 75 percent of the area board voted it that way. Now the purpose of this legislation and the reason that it was brought on is that we are in class...we have a class suit going on because of the differential that was permitted. In 1984, the Legislature voted to allow higher taxation or taxing authority because the tax base really wasn't enough to fulfill what was felt to be necessary for the community colleges, in this particular case in